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HISTORY OF INDIANA

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HISTORY OF INDIANA

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CHAPTER I

THE FIRST OCCUPANTS

Indiana Two Centuries Ago. — More than two centuries have passed since European white men first set foot on the soil of what is now Indiana. The country was then a vast wilderness. It was almost wholly covered with tangled forests, threaded by noble rivers, and inhabited by a varied wild life and by bands of roving savages. In the north and west, open prairies, with rich and copious grasses, added beauty to the landscape. In the north clear calm lakes, with beautifully wooded shores and sweet pure water, basked in the sunshine. Surely here was nature's garden spot. In the lowlands of the valleys near the streams were immense swamps. They made the country almost impassable at certain seasons.

What changes have two centuries wrought! How very different is the land we know as Indiana to-day! The forests are gone, the swamps are drained, the wild creatures have fled or linger only in remote places. Where once the deer grazed are now well-tilled farms. Where the buffalo marched in stately droves to salt-lick and spring are now lines of steel coursed by thundering trains. Where the woodlands were thickest are now thriving towns and cities. What magic has wrought this marvelous change?

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We are to follow the story of Indiana's making through two centuries of progress. But first let us consider the factors which helped in the making of a great State. One of the most important of these is its position with regard to the country as a whole.

Indiana on the Nation's Highway. — Indiana lies at the crossroads of the nation. The summit plain which lies across the Mississippi-St. Lawrence watershed covers the northern portion of the State. This furnished an easy grade for the lines of traffic from east to west. The Lincoln Highway is a new and recent use of this great natural thoroughfare. In like manner the gentle southerly slope of the Wabash basin makes north and south communication easy and direct. The Dixie Highway is the latest witness of this line of transit. To-day, no less than nineteen east and west trunk lines and seven north and south systems of railway traverse the State. Thus Indiana lies on the main highway of commerce and travel between the East and the West, as well as the North and the South. Moreover, two great inland waterways lie along the two ends of the State and supplement the overland lines of traffic. This fact of strategic location, as we shall see, has had an important bearing upon the history of the State.

Natural Resources of the State. — A second factor in the making of the Indiana of to-day is the presence of rich stores of natural resources. The first to be used was the *timber*. To the early settlers an obstacle to be removed by destructive methods, the timber has nevertheless been a useful asset to the people of the State. Indiana's woodlands form the western margin of the North American forest,—all beyond is prairie, with only an occasional clump of trees. The trees are mostly of the hardwood variety. They include the black walnut, red and white oak, three or four kinds of ash, two of maple, besides beech, hickory, and elm. At first yellow poplar abounded, though it is now nearly exhausted. The quality

and variety of timber and the closeness to the market in the prairie regions of the West help to explain Indiana's leadership in the making of furniture and agricultural implements.

Another resource is the *natural fuels*. Indiana, though not a mountain region, is uncommonly rich in stores of coal, natural gas, and petroleum. Coal measures at varying depths underlie seven thousand square miles of surface, or nearly one-fifth of the State. Indiana coal is of two varieties, block and bituminous. Both are of excellent quality for steam and household uses. Natural gas has been found in a field comprising twenty-five hundred square miles, and petroleum in an area half as great. Both are factors in Indiana's industrial greatness.

Another resource of prime importance is the *productive soil*. About four-fifths of the State lies in the glacial drift region. It was here that many centuries ago a great ice-sheet pounded up the rocks and spread the soil broadly over the surface. This is known as the *drift*. It covers the surface to a depth of from ten to two hundred feet. It is composed of mineral elements necessary to plant growth. The remaining fifth of the State is less fortunate in its soil, although the bottom lands of the streams are covered with rich silt washed down in the flood seasons.

Mention should be made also of the *building stone* and *clay*, in which the State abounds. These have had a large place in the growth of the State, as will be noted later.

Early Indian Migrations. — The original occupants of Indiana were the red children of the forest. They belonged chiefly to the Algonquin stock of Indians. They were not fixed in their habitation, nor had they long been occupants of the western country. The Indians known to the first white comers had only recently migrated to the valley of the Ohio. Their ancestors had for the most part lived on the eastern slopes of the Alleghanies. Why had they migrated westward?

Two answers help to explain, — the hostility of the warlike Iroquois, and the westward “push” of the English colonists.

The Indian Homes and Hunting Grounds. — The country immediately south of the Ohio River was not occupied by Indians. This region was an Indian hunting preserve, held as neutral ground by the tribes to the northward, eastward, and southward. But the valleys of the Wabash and its branches, and the valleys of the Maumee and the Big St. Joseph held a numerous Indian population. How many Indian braves lived on the banks of the Wabash none can say. But they formed an impassable barrier to western settlement.

Indian Tribal Groups. — There were several tribal groups or “nations” of Indians. There was no real bond of union among the tribes; on the contrary, petty quarrels and constant strife prevented united action. Near the close of the eighteenth century the Indians became a serious menace to the white settlers on both sides of the Ohio River. At this time the Delawares occupied the eastern portion of Indiana. They were a fugitive people, their fathers having formerly lived on the eastern side of the Alleghanies, along the Susquehanna, around the Chesapeake, and along the rivers and bays of Virginia. About 1760, they settled on the Muskingum River in Ohio. From here they were forced farther westward after the Treaty of Greenville in 1795.

The Shawnees lived near and along the Ohio. Having originally come from the south, they settled at first along the Scioto, later on the Great Miami River, in Ohio. Thence, under their famous chieftains, Tecumseh and the Prophet, they migrated to Indiana after 1795.

The Wyandots were the descendants of the Hurons, who had at one time lived north of the lower Great Lakes. Very early, the Huron nation had been fiercely attacked by the Iroquois and destroyed. A remnant known as the Wyandots

came to live on the Sandusky in Ohio. Here they became civilized, dwelt in substantial log houses, carried on agriculture, and lived settled lives. One tribe of Wyandots was later found in Southern Indiana, between the lower Wabash and the Ohio.

The Miami Confederacy. — Strongest and most warlike of the Indian nations was the group known as the Miamis. It was composed of four main branches: The Twightwees, around the union of the St. Mary and the St. Joseph Rivers; the Eel River Miamis; the Weas along the middle course of the Wabash; and the Piankeshaws on the lower Wabash. Other tribes looked up to this powerful confederacy. The first named branch — the Twightwees — were considered the head of the confederacy; to these all others yielded in matters of peace and war. The Miami nation had carried on a long warfare with the distant Iroquois.



TECUMSEH

Acting closely with the Miamis were the Kickapoos, who once lived in the far north but had been driven southward by the Sioux. They now dwelt west of the Wabash and south of the Kankakee. The Pottawatomies lived in the extreme north and northwest and were on good terms with the Miamis.

We should become acquainted with these early occupants of Indiana. We should know the name, the location, and the importance of each tribal group. Let us also learn something of how they lived.

Indian Life and Customs. — Let us select the tribe farthest removed from the influence of the English settlers — the Pottawatomies — and ask an Indian agent who lived among them to tell us how they lived. “The men are well clothed,”

he says. "Their entire occupation is hunting and dress. They make use of a great deal of vermilion. In winter they wear buffalo robes richly painted and in summer red or blue cloth [purchased from traders]. The women do all the work. They cultivate Indian corn, beans, squashes, and melons. These all come up very fine.

"The women and girls dance at night. They adorn themselves, — grease their hair, paint their faces, put on white chemises, and wear their belts of wampum. They are very tidy in their way. The old men often dance the 'medicine.' While thus engaged, they resemble a set of demons. The young men sometimes dance in a circle and *strike posts*. While doing this they recount their achievements in war.

"When the Indians go hunting — as they do every autumn — they carry their *apaquois* [a plaited reed mat] to hut under at night. Everyone follows, — men, women, and children. They spend the winter in the forest on the chase and return to their homes in the spring."

Thus we see the Indians were true children of nature. Their lives were often free and wholesome in spite of hardship and privation.

Indian Education. — Indian youth were trained to endure the hardships of war and the chase. Both boys and girls were taught the difficult art of self-control. They were required to bathe every day in cold water, and at frequent intervals to fast for a whole day. When fasting, the child's face was blacked, — if a boy, all over; if a girl, the cheeks only. At eighteen the boy's education was completed; his face was blackened for the last time; he was taken a mile from the village and a small hut built of bushes or reeds. Here he was left alone for five or six days, perhaps eight, without food. Then he was taken home, washed all over, and his head shaved so as to leave the "scalp-lock." Finally, he was given a box of vermilion and accepted into the tribe as a full-grown

warrior. Thus we see there were many excellent features in Indian life and character. But we must turn aside from the red children of the forest to consider the first white occupants of this region.

French Traders and Missionaries. — The first white men who came to what is now Indiana were Frenchmen. They came in the service of their God and king. The Jesuits, or members of the Society of Jesus, at this time planned to found a nation of Christian Indians around the Great Lakes. They began with the Hurons who lived north of Lakes Erie and Ontario. As we have already noted, just before 1650, the Huron nation was fiercely attacked by the warlike Iroquois and destroyed.

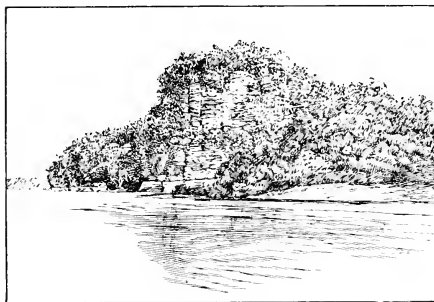
After this, for a century, fur-traders went hand in hand with the missionaries. They established posts all over the western country and used them as centers from which to visit the neighboring tribes. Hither came the priests to carry the Gospel to the Indians.

LaSalle, the Pioneer Trader in Indiana. — The real pioneer of France in Indiana was LaSalle. He was born of a wealthy burgher family in Rouen, the ancient capital of Normandy, educated by the Jesuits, and came to the New World in search of fame and fortune. He was given a large tract of land on the St. Lawrence, nine miles above Montreal; here he learned of a beautiful river to the west and burned with a zeal to find it, — a possible way to the South Sea. An account of how he set out and of what he did is given on pages 34-36 of Bourne and Benton's *History of the United States*.

LaSalle at the Kankakee Portage. — When LaSalle reached the mouth of the St. Joseph River he built a fort there. He then set out with his faithful companions expecting to paddle in canoes by the rivers to the Illinois country. Up the beautiful St. Joseph they went in the month of December, 1679,

hoping to find the portage¹ place between the St. Joseph and the Kankakee. They arrived at the south bend of the river, near where the city of South Bend now stands. Here they had been told was the portage path.

Treaty with the Miamis. — LaSalle and his party passed down the Illinois River and on a high rock — which they



“STARVED ROCK” ON THE ILLINOIS RIVER

named “Starved Rock” — they built a town. Here they hoped to build up an Indian stronghold in the western country. They sent back a load of furs, but their party proved unfaithful and sold the furs. Two years later LaSalle re-

turned to the Kankakee portage; here he made a treaty with the Miami Indians. With many gifts he induced the Indians to go with him to the town he had founded on the Illinois.

French Settlements in Indiana. — It was a generation later that the French established settlements in Indiana. Already important posts were founded in the Illinois country, at Cahokia and Kaskaskia, on the Mississippi River. The first post in Indiana was at Vincennes, but the exact date of its founding is unknown; perhaps it was as early as 1731. Another was established at Ouiatanon, near where the city of Lafayette now stands. A third post was at Kekionga, at the junction of the Rivers St. Joseph and St. Mary, near the site of Fort Wayne.

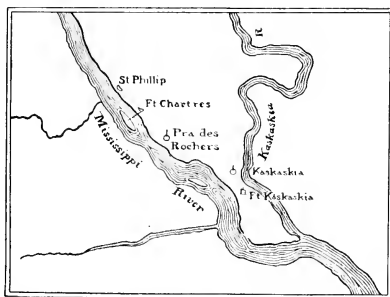
Thus we see that LaSalle and his followers gave to the world its first knowledge of the Indiana we know. The

¹ A portage is the land or route over which boats, goods, etc., are carried overland between navigable waters.

missionary and the trader sought out the wilds of the western country and aided in the work of advancing civilization.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Contrast the Indiana we know with that of two centuries ago. Write a list of five different kinds of changes in the country.
2. Explain the factors which have helped to make Indiana a great State. Make a list of the *natural resources*. In what ways is each kind of resource useful? Make a list of native trees and tell for what each is useful.
3. On a map of the State, point out the lake region; the prairie district; the wooded area. Describe the drainage system. Name the principal tributaries of the Wabash River.
4. Locate on the map each of the Indian tribes which lived in what is now Indiana. Name the tribes of the Miami Confederacy and locate the principal town of each tribe.
5. From the map make a list of the rivers and lakes bearing Indian names. Find other Indian names on the map, e.g., Kokomo, Monon.
6. Make a list of counties or cities having French names, e.g., Dubois, Terre Haute.
7. What is the meaning of the name "Indiana"?
8. Trace the route followed by LaSalle across Indiana in 1769.



FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN THE ILLINOIS
COUNTRY

CHAPTER II

THE TWO CONQUESTS

The French and English as Rivals. — The French were not to be left in undisputed control of the country between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi River. The English colonists also laid claim to this rich domain. The French, as we have seen, held the country by right of exploration and occupancy. Before 1750, they had established forts and trading-posts at important points along the Great Lakes, on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, and in the Wabash country. The English claim rested upon three things, — the royal grants of the early charters, cessions made by treaties with the Iroquois, and a clause in the Treaty of Utrecht. That treaty, signed in 1713, acknowledged the right of the English to trade with the Indians. Upon the right of trading with the Indians of the northwest, the contest turned.

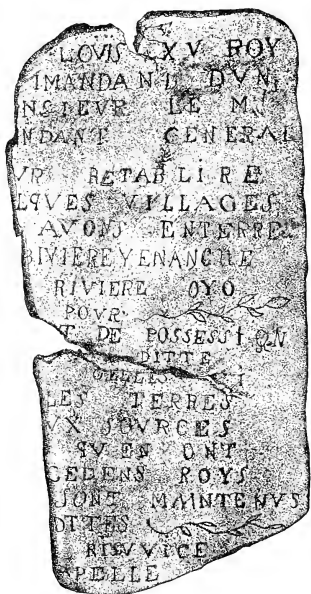
English Traders in the Northwest. — The Shawnee Indians in the Ohio country had never been very friendly toward the French, but they had long been on good terms with the English traders. They were, moreover, close friends of the Miamis, the leading Indians of the Wabash Valley. Through their friendly relations with the Shawnees, the English traders hoped to win the favor of the Miamis and other Indian tribes of the northwest, and thus secure for themselves the valuable trade in furs. Their agents slyly worked into the confidence of the Indians. They paid liberally for the furs. They even advanced blankets and whiskey to the Indians before the season's furs were ready to be delivered.

These English traders were typical backwoods adventurers,

— bold, cunning, skilled in woodcraft, and possessed of a thorough knowledge of Indian character. In time they found themselves in control of much of the Indian trade of the Ohio country. Their rivals at Detroit and Kaskaskia became highly incensed at their success. Before 1750, they held the most important part of the Indian trade.

Two Journeys into the Ohio Country. — To strengthen the waning hold of the French, the governor of Canada sent Captain Bienville de Céleron down the Ohio in the summer of 1749. Up the St. Lawrence, across Lake Ontario, along the shores of Lake Erie, Céleron's party of two hundred soldiers and boatmen lightly skimmed in their birch-bark canoes. Crossing the country from Lake Erie, they launched their boats on a beautiful lake, and soon found their way into the Allegheny and thence down the Ohio. At Indian towns on the way, they stopped to give pledges of friendship. At each point where an important stream fell into the Ohio, the party would pause to bury a leaden plate inscribed with a legend which proclaimed the King of France as the rightful ruler of all the territory drained by these rivers. By this means France formally established her title.

Slightly more than a year later, Christopher Gist, a shrewd and hardy hunter from the back country of North Carolina, passed down the Ohio on a similar mission. He came in the interest of the Ohio Company, which had lately received



LEAD PLATE BURIED BY THE
FRENCH AT THE MOUTH OF
THE MUSKINGUM RIVER

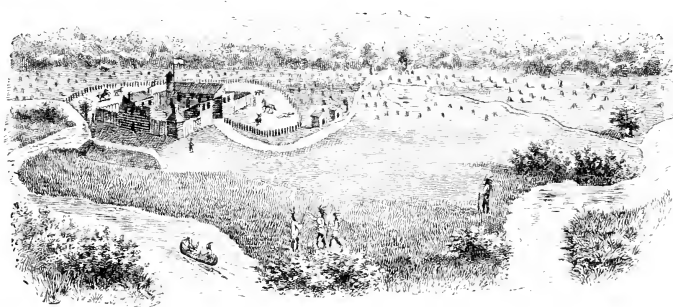
from the English King an extensive grant of land west of the Alleghanies. Gist, with a few companions, sought out the best roads to the country, and assured the Indians of the friendship and good will of the English. Thus by 1750 the question of who was to control the western territory had taken definite shape. But it was not settled until after a long war had been waged.

The English Win the Northwest. — At the close of the French and Indian War, which followed in due time, the French yielded this disputed territory to the English. One by one the western posts were occupied by British soldiers. In 1765 Fort Chartres, on the Mississippi, the last of the French posts to be transferred, was turned over to a British officer.

Pontiac Wages War on the English, 1764. — Now that their rivals were out of the country, the English grew overbearing toward the Indians. The traders, once so obliging, began to cheat and rob the red children of the woods. This treatment enraged the Indian chieftains. An Ottawa chief named Pontiac, one of the greatest of Indian leaders, formed a conspiracy, whose object was to capture all of the posts and drive the white people out of the country. Detroit was besieged; Ouiatanon was destroyed; Fort Miami (later Fort Wayne) was burned and its garrison butchered; other posts shared a similar fate. Fully three hundred whites were held as prisoners among the savages of Ohio and Indiana. Finally, Colonel Henry Bouquet, of Pennsylvania, marched to the Indian country with a large company of soldiers. On the banks of the Muskingum, in Ohio, he summoned the red warriors to his camp and, holding their chiefs as hostages, commanded them to go at once and bring back all the white people whom they were holding as captives. The Indians, now thoroughly alarmed, gladly obeyed.

“A large number of men and women had accompanied Colonel Bouquet in the hope of finding their long-lost rela-

tives," says Dr. Esarey. "The scene that followed the return of the Indians, bringing in 206 prisoners, was one of the most tragic ever witnessed on the American frontier. As families were reunited, as wife and children were restored to husband



FORT MIAMI (FORT WAYNE) IN 1795

After a lithograph in Wallace A. Bruce's *History of Fort Wayne*.

and father, as mothers found their babes after years of captivity, and as others learned of the torture and death of their friends, their grief or joy was crushing."

This Indian uprising was but the beginning of a bitter hatred between the Indians and English settlers and traders in the western country.

George Croghan's Journey up the Wabash. — The Illinois country — that part of the newly acquired territory westward from the Wabash — was not well known to the English. This fact caused the British commander, General Thomas Gage, to send a party to that region by way of the Ohio. Colonel George Croghan, one of the best Indian agents in the West, was chosen to lead the party. He had for a long time lived among the Indians and had accompanied Christopher Gist on his tour among the tribes in 1750. While passing rapidly down the Ohio, in 1765, near the mouth of the Wabash his party was attacked by a band of Indians and carried as prisoners through the forest to Vincennes.

"On my arrival," writes Croghan in his Journal, "I found a village of about eighty or ninety French families settled on the east side of the river, being one of the finest situations that can be found. The country is level and clear and the soil very rich, producing wheat and tobacco. I think the tobacco is better than that in Maryland or Virginia."

"Post Vincent is a place of great consequence for trade," he continues, "being a fine hunting country all along the Wabash and too far for the Indians who reside hereabouts to go either to the Illinois or elsewhere to fetch their necessities."

Croghan and his friends proceeded up the river on horseback to Ouiatanon. As he passed along he did not fail to note the beauty and promise of the country. After a conference with the Indians at Ouiatanon, and being freed by his captors, he continued on his journey to Detroit.

Croghan gave his countrymen their first real glimpse of the Wabash country and aroused their interest in its future. Several attempts were made by them before the Revolution to found settlements in this region, in spite of the proclamation of 1763, which set aside the western country "for the use of the Indians."

The West in the Revolution. — Despite the king's proclamation of 1763, forbidding settlements west of the mountains, bands of settlers began to make homes for themselves in the valleys of the westward-flowing rivers. At the outbreak of the Revolution, there were numerous settlements in the back country of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina.

The English commanders began at once to use the war-loving Indians against the rebellious colonists along the frontiers. Colonel Henry Hamilton at Detroit was active in arousing the Western Indians against the Virginia settlers in Kentucky.

The Indians themselves hesitated to attack the settlers. For two years they remained quiet. But in 1777 — the

“bloody year” — the break came. Hamilton boasted that seventeen bands had been sent by him to ravage the frontiers. The Miami Indians on the Wabash took a leading part. They fell with pitiless fury upon scattered settlements.

A terror hung over the West. The frontier was in a fever of excitement. Forts and block-houses were hastily constructed. Militiamen were summoned to arms.

George Rogers Clark. — At this point a leader appeared. George Rogers Clark, a Virginian by birth, was one of the early settlers of Harrodsburg, which he helped to lay out, and had represented the county of Kentucky in the Virginia legislature. He clearly understood the real source of danger and thought out a plan for relief. The English posts, including Detroit, must be taken and held to prevent their use as rallying-points for Indian war-parties.

Clark Prepares for the Expedition. — It was a bold venture, but Clark made sure of his ground. In the summer of 1777, he sent two of his friends as spies to the Illinois and the Wabash. Disguised as hunters, they visited Kaskaskia and Vincennes, and, returning quietly to Harrodsburg, reported the places not strongly guarded, the inhabitants without suspicion, and not firmly attached to the British.

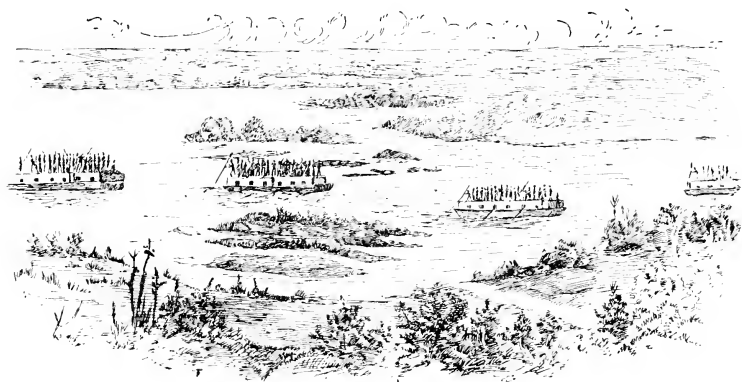
Clark now hastened to lay his plan before Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia. He was authorized to raise an army of



CLARK STATUE
In Monument Place, Indianapolis.

350 volunteers and was voted £1200 for expenses and given an order on the commanding officer at Pittsburgh for boats and supplies.

The brave Clark now quickly enlisted a few of his old Virginia friends and neighbors and sent them in different directions to raise companies of volunteers. In May, 1778, a little band of hardy Virginia backwoodsmen, all skillful



CLARK'S ARMY GOING OVER THE FALLS OF THE OHIO

hunters and marksmen, accompanied by a few settlers and their families, dropped down the Ohio to the Falls, near the site of Louisville. Here Colonel Clark fortified Corn Island, and began to drill his little army.

Expedition to Kaskaskia.—After a month of drilling, Clark for the first time told his men the real object of the expedition. They were much surprised, as they believed the party was intended for the defense of Kentucky. Most of the men cheered loudly when told their commander's purpose, but a number from the distant Tennessee country refused to go so far from their homes and slipped away during the night.

With the remaining men — about half the number that he

had expected to raise — Colonel Clark started for the Illinois. He well understood that everything depended on his being able to take the British at Kaskaskia by surprise.

Rowing swiftly down the Ohio to the mouth of the Tennessee, the little army struck boldly across the country, arriving near Kaskaskia on the evening of July 4, 1778.

Capture of Kaskaskia. — In a wonderfully interesting letter which he afterwards wrote to George Mason, as well as in his *Memoir*, Clark relates the story of his long march and capture of the post. He tells how he led his men to a farmhouse on the east side of the river, and, finding boats, crossed over, reaching the outskirts of the town shortly after dark. Here they remained in quiet until nearly midnight, when they entered the fort and seized the commander.



RUINS OF OLD KASKASKIA
From a recent photograph.

Immediately, Clark's soldiers ran through the town, making a great noise and ordering the people to keep off the streets. Thus the remarkable capture of the place without bloodshed was an accomplished fact. The other places near by on the Mississippi quickly fell into Colonel Clark's hands.

Pierre Gibault and the Capture of Vincennes. — Clark won the good will of Father Pierre Gibault, a priest, who had great influence with the French inhabitants, by his assurance that the French would not be molested in any way. He showed Gibault a copy of the Treaty of Alliance recently made between France and the United States. The latter offered to go to Vincennes and explain to the French there the kind treatment his people had received and show them

the Treaty, believing, he said, that he could win them over to the American side.

Accompanied by a few friends, Gibault set out for Vincennes, and on his arrival, finding the post without a garrison, gathered the people together and had them take the oath of

*Colonel Clark's Compliments to Mr. —
Hamilton and begs leave to inform
him that C. Clark will not agree
to any other Terms than that of Mr
Hamilton's Surrendering himself and
Garrison, Prisoners at Discretion. —*

*If Mr. Hamilton is Desirous of
a Conference with C. Clark he will —
meet him at the Church with Capt
Helms, —*

July 24th 1779 — G. Clark

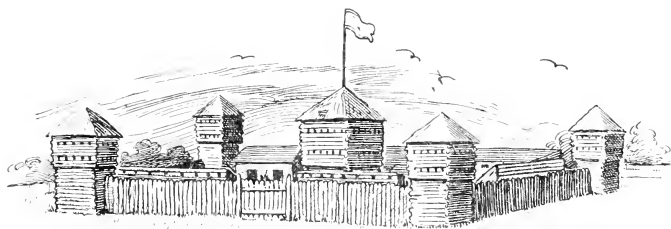
CLARK'S LETTER TO HAMILTON DEMANDING SURRENDER

allegiance to the United States. Soon a garrison of French volunteers was formed and the American flag was raised over the fort. Clark was made glad by the news of Father Gibault's success at Vincennes and sent his best officer, Captain Leonard Helm, to take charge of the place.

The Last Capture of Vincennes. — Word soon came to Colonel Henry Hamilton, at Detroit, of Clark's remarkable

exploits at Kaskaskia and Vincennes. He started at once with a considerable force to the latter place and arriving near the middle of December easily retook the fort from Captain Helm, who made as good a showing as he could with his one small cannon and garrison of four men.

Clark saw the peril of his own position. He must either give up his conquests and return to Kentucky or risk capture in the spring. One other choice remained. He might gather together the remnants of his little army, march boldly across



THE OLD FORT AT VINCENNES

Built in 1702 and still standing in 1816.

the country to Vincennes, and there take the chance of capturing his enemy, who was now in winter quarters. This course he decided to pursue. Picking a small band of Frenchmen and Americans, who volunteered to accompany him, and dispatching a large boat — the *Willing* — with supplies and small cannon, by the river route to Vincennes, he started on the long march of 240 miles in the dead of winter.

The first part of the journey was easy enough, but, on their arrival at the Wabash some eight or ten miles below Vincennes, trouble began. The river was at high flood, the bottom lands were submerged, and the *Willing* was nowhere to be found. Nothing daunted, the men set willingly to work to make some “dugout” canoes, to use in crossing the river. Suddenly some friendly French hunters from Vincennes appeared. Their

canoes served, along with the "dugouts," to transport the now tired men across the river.

Here their difficulties began to multiply. Vincennes was miles distant and there was water on every side. How was the band of soldiers to reach the place without boats! It was too late to retreat, so with an Indian war-whoop the dauntless conqueror plunged into the icy waters and led the way. For two days they waded, the water at times up to their chins, without a bite to eat, but fortunately finding a dry place in which to camp through the cold night.

Arriving at last at Vincennes, Clark sent word to the people to remain in their homes, and shut up the British commander in the fort. The French militia quickly came to his side and were followed by the Indian warriors. The courage of the garrison began to wane and on the second day terms of surrender were arranged.

Importance of the Conquest. — Thus ended one of the most brilliant exploits recorded in history. Its importance may be seen from the fact that not only was the whole country northwest of the Ohio River held by the Americans throughout the war and ceded by the British in the Treaty of Peace, but the British plans in the south, whither Hamilton expected to march the following year, were completely broken up.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Why were the French and English rivals for the western country? Upon what facts did the claims of each rest? Which people had the better claim?
2. Tell how the English agents managed to control the greater part of the fur-trade. Trace the life history of a beaver fur from the Wabash country to a European capital.
3. On an outline map, trace the routes of Bienville de Céleron, Christopher Gist, and George Croghan. Of what importance was the journey of each?
4. In what war did the British win the Northwest? Why did they succeed in this war? What other portions of North America did they win from the French in the same war?
5. Why did the Indians become hostile toward the English? Why did the

British incite the Indians against the Americans? How did they aid the Indians?

6. Read Clark's own account of his conquests of the Northwest. Tell his story to the class. See *Readings in Indiana History*, ch. iii. Follow his route on a wall map as you tell the story. Of what importance was his conquest to the Americans? How was he rewarded by Virginia? How has Indiana honored Clark's memory?

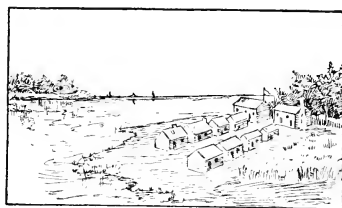
Important Dates

1749. Céleron journeys into the Ohio Country.

1750. Christopher Gist journeys down the Ohio.

1764. Pontiac's war on the English.

1778-9. George Rogers Clark conquers the Northwest for Virginia.



CORN ISLAND — FALLS OF THE OHIO

CHAPTER III

FROM TERRITORY TO COMMONWEALTH

The British Retain the Western Posts. — By the Treaty of Peace, in 1783, the British gave up the western country, accepting the Great Lakes and the Mississippi as the American boundary on the north and west. But for twelve years they continued to hold the posts on the American side of the Great Lakes. They persistently refused to yield these places. "Your people have not lived up to the treaty," they said, "and we shall retain the posts as a pledge of its fulfillment." But their real purpose was to hold for themselves the rich fur-trade of the region. To add terror to injury, the English traders and officers aroused the Indians against American settlers west of the mountains.

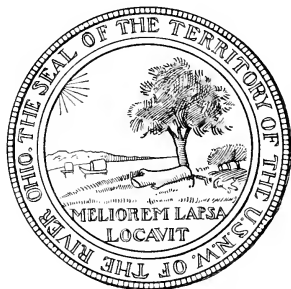
Fixing an Indian Boundary. — Settlers poured over the mountains, seeking homes in the new lands of the West. Many pushing across the Ohio River became "squatters" on the Indian lands. This they were forbidden to do, but who was to keep them off? The Indians grew restless. The Great River, they said, is a border line over which no white settler may pass.

In 1784 at Fort Stanwix, in New York, commissioners of Congress made a treaty with the Six Nations — the Iroquois — and agreed upon the Ohio River as the Indian boundary. This was a proper line and was all the Indians desired. But Congress needed the Indian lands, — to sell to settlers for money to pay the debts and the expenses of government. So strong efforts were made to push back the Indian boundary.

In 1785, some Ohio tribes agreed to accept the line along the Cuyahoga and the Big Miami; other tribes remained away when the treaty was made and refused to accept this line.

The Indians Begin the War. — The Indians were now thoroughly aroused. They must act, and act promptly, or they were certain to lose the best of their homes and hunting lands. In August, 1785, a grand council of the tribes was held at Ouiatanon. War on the invading settlers was agreed upon. The Indians at once began to make forays on the scattered settlements, near Vincennes, on Clark's Grant, and along the Ohio.

Clark on the Wabash. — The whole border was alarmed. The war was likely to be carried to the Kentucky settlements, as so often during the Revolution. Clark was called from his home at the Falls and placed at the head of the Kentucky militia. He promptly marched to Vincennes and up the Wabash as far as the Kickapoo towns on the Vermilion. These he found deserted and was preparing to push into the heart of the Indian country, when the militia mutinied — from lack of food or suspicion of their leader — and he was compelled to return to Vincennes, — the expedition a failure and the Indians unsubdued.



SEAL OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORY

Gamelin's Mission to the Wabash Indians. — In 1787 the Northwest Territory was organized and General Arthur St. Clair, a hero of the Revolution, made its governor. After some delay, St. Clair reached the Ohio. At first, he sought by peaceful means to quiet the Indians. Antoine Gamelin, a trader at Vincennes, who knew the Indians well, was sent to the Wabash country with a message of peace. In the spring

of 1790, Gamelin set out. He went from tribe to tribe, held councils with the chief men, and delivered the offer of peace. The older men heard him willingly, but the young warriors referred him to the British commander at Detroit. Gamelin returned to Vincennes, his mission a failure.

Expeditions to the Indian Country. — Governor St. Clair finally determined to use means which he thought better suited to impress the savage mind. He sent bands of soldiers and Indian fighters to strike the Indians and ravage their towns. In rapid succession three armies were sent against the Miamis: General Josiah Harmar marched to the Maumee towns; General Charles Scott to the Weas; and General James Wilkinson to the Eel River Miamis. These parties raided the Indian country, destroyed the towns, and seized prisoners who were held as hostages for the good behavior of the tribes.

It is doubtful if these expeditions accomplished more than to enrage the Indians and make them more determined than ever to drive the white settlers beyond the Ohio.

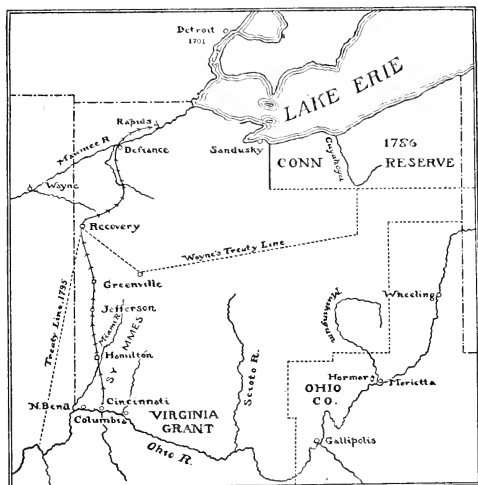
St. Clair Defeated by the Indians. — Now came one of the worst defeats in the history of the West. St. Clair himself led toward the Miami a mixed band of militia and regular soldiers, — an army poorly organized, poorly equipped, and poorly led. Near the head-waters of the Wabash, the Indians under Little Turtle surprised St. Clair and nearly destroyed his army.

“St. Clair, with his gray hair streaming under his cocked hat,” writes his biographer, “had horse after horse shot under him as he endeavored to make his men stand steady. Eight bullets pierced his garments but not one touched his skin.”

Anthony Wayne Defeats the Indians. — General Anthony Wayne was called to the West. For more than a year he drilled his men; then he marched boldly into the Indian country, building forts Greenville and Recovery, and pursuing the Indians far down the Miami. At last he found them in an

ambush of fallen timber and completely crushed them. The battle of Fallen Timbers, in 1794, proved the death-blow of the Miami confederacy.

Treaty of Greenville, 1795. — One by one the Indian chieftains visited the camp of Wayne and promised to come to a council at Greenville the following summer. Here peace was established and the Indian boundary line fixed at last. It came to be known as the Greenville Treaty Line. Its course may be readily traced on the map. It now seemed certain that the wars were over. The whole frontier breathed easier.



WAYNE'S CAMPAIGN AND EARLY OHIO SETTLEMENTS

Virginia Yields Her Claim. —

The expedition of Clark, in 1778-9, as we have seen, gave Virginia the splendid territory northwest of the Ohio River. In 1784, finding that other states were opposed to her keeping this vast region, Virginia generously ceded it to Congress to be held for the common good. She asked only that the settlers be protected in their rights, that Clark and his men be secured in their land grant, and that in due time new states be carved out of the territory and admitted into the Union. As we shall see Congress respected her wishes in all of these matters.

Ordinance of 1787. — It was soon clear that some kind of government was needed for the new territory. Action in the matter was hastened by the request of a company of New

England men — known as the Ohio Company — headed by Manasseh Cutler and Rufus Putnam, to purchase a large tract of land in this region. Congress was quite willing to sell the lands, for money was needed to pay the debts incurred in the Revolution. But the New Englanders would not pay a penny until a stable government was provided and slavery was forever prohibited. So Congress made haste to pass the Northwest Ordinance.

Importance of the Ordinance. — The Ordinance was important to the future of the country for two reasons. First, it provided a government, — a governor and three judges to rule until the country should have 5000 free male inhabitants, when an assembly might be elected to make the laws. Second, it guaranteed to the people rights and privileges, — freedom in religion, trial by jury, and free republican government. The law of primogeniture was abolished. Slavery was forever prohibited.

Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, has declared that the Northwest Ordinance deserves to rank with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as “one of the three title-deeds of American liberty.”

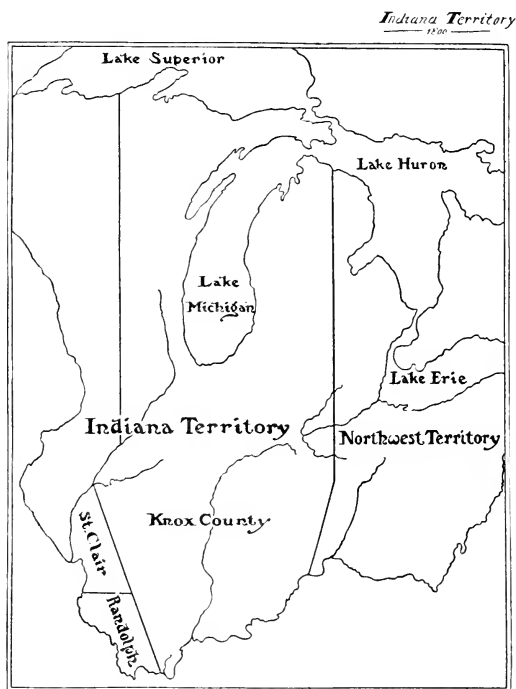
The New Government in Operation. — Arthur St. Clair, as we have seen, was made governor of the Northwest Territory. He served until 1800, when the region was divided into the Northwest and Indiana Territories.

Governor St. Clair proved capable and honest, though not always popular. On July 9, 1788, amid the salute of cannon, he arrived at Marietta, the settlement just founded by the Ohio Company, and began at once to organize the new government. He set up the County of Washington, comprising most of what is now Ohio, in all of which there were but 132 people. He appointed a sheriff, justices, and a coroner, following the custom of the counties in Pennsylvania. Soon afterward St. Clair County was created and included the

settlements on the Illinois, and Knox County in the southern central part of the Territory.

Work of the Governor and Judges. — In accordance with the Ordinance, the governor and judges adopted laws of the older states suited to the conditions in the territory.

Sometimes, contrary to the Ordinance, they passed new laws, but for this they were severely censured. Among the matters that arose for settlement were the land-claim disputes at Vincennes. The settlers at this place — both French and American — had obtained the title to their lands from uncertain sources, — some

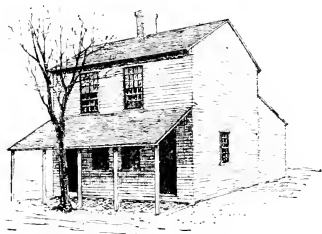


INDIANA TERRITORY IN 1800

from Indian purchases, others from grants by military authority, still others by Act of Congress. As many of the records had disappeared, titles were in confusion. At one time the local court of three justices assumed power to grant lands. They modestly divided among themselves a tract of about 10,000 acres. It was no easy matter to determine the title to these lands, but the governor and judges did all they could to act justly.

Indiana Territory Formed. — On July 4, 1800, the old Northwest Territory was divided. All west of the Greenville Treaty Line from the Ohio River to Fort Recovery, thence due northward to Canada, was Indiana Territory. That east of this line remained the Northwest Territory. The reasons for the division, and the forming of Indiana Territory, were, first, the lack of good government in the western portion, owing to its great size; and second, in order to prepare the eastern part for a state, — Ohio being set apart in 1803.

Extent and Population. — At first Indiana Territory included the whole region from the eastern line to the Great



THE FIRST CAPITOL AT VINCENNES

Lakes and the Mississippi, or what is at present the states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. In 1805 the Territory of Michigan was set off, and in 1809 that of Illinois. Thus in nine years Indiana Territory was reduced to the area of the present

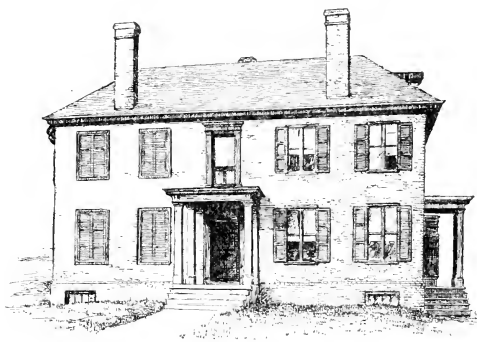
state. So rapid was the growth of the Northwest country in population.

The population, a little more than 6500, white and black, was distributed in settlements here and there, — in Clark's Grant, at Vincennes, at Kaskaskia, and at Cahokia. A few small posts were in the distant north. There remained also a numerous Indian population, divided into tribes as at the beginning.

Government of the Territory. — The government provided by the Ordinance of 1787 was set into operation. There were to be two grades of bodies to make the laws. First, the governor and judges were to adopt laws from the older states. Second, the governor, a council, and a representative assembly were in due time to be chosen to make laws which

the people desired. The territory passed to the second grade in 1804.

The First Governor. — William Henry Harrison became the first governor of Indiana Territory. He came of a fine Virginia family and received a good education. His father was Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a governor of Virginia. As we shall see, William Henry Harrison afterward became President of the United States, as did also his grandson. Governor Harrison had already proved a useful and capable man, — on the staff of General Wayne at Fallen Timbers, as secretary of the Northwest Territory, and as the territorial representative in Congress.



THE HARRISON MANSION AT VINCENNES

When early in 1801 Harrison reached Vincennes to begin his work, he found the place a village of a few hundred souls, mostly French. In 1806 he completed on his estate — which he called “Grouseland” — a fine brick mansion. This house still stands, a conspicuous reminder of territorial days.

Territorial Problems. — As is commonly true in a new country, the makers of the commonwealth in this period were compelled to face many difficult problems. In solving these the governor’s ability was often taxed to the utmost.

First, there was the matter of *Indian land cessions*. In 1800, while in Congress, Harrison was successful in having the size of the lot of public land, which a settler was expected to purchase, reduced to 320 acres. Before that time, one

seeking government land must buy either a section or a whole township. Not many had the means for so large a purchase. But before settlers could buy land of the government, the Indian title must be purchased. In 1800, all of the north bank of the Ohio River, except Clark's Grant, was Indian land. Before the close of 1809, in a series of remarkable Indian treaties, Harrison had freed from Indian claim all the lands in the territory south of a line passing through what is now Indianapolis.

Next, there was the problem of *the defense of the settlers*. This was provided by means of the militia and by mounted rangers. Every able-bodied man between the ages of eighteen and forty-five was required to enroll for militia duty, and to provide himself with musket, powder, and ball. Then he must appear at muster for drill. On muster days there was often a social gathering of the neighborhood. The families of the men were present, a dinner — often a barbecue — being prepared. The young folks danced, their elders discussed politics or other serious topics. Every two months came the company muster; in April and October, the muster of larger numbers. When Indians were threatening, mounted rangers, in the pay of Congress, scoured the woods and gave warning and protection to remote settlers.

Again, there was the matter of *regulating trade with the Indians*. Governor Harrison knew that crafty traders often treated the Indians unfairly. A trader would frequently draw an Indian into town, make him drunk, then rob him. Harrison required the traders to obtain a license to trade, and forbade them to sell the Indians whiskey in the towns. "I can tell at once on looking at an Indian whether he belongs to a neighboring or a more distant tribe," he once said. "The latter is generally well-clothed, healthy, and vigorous; the former half-naked, filthy, and enfeebled by drink."

Finally, there was the question of *slave-holding in the terri-*

tory. The Ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery. Many people in the country already owned slaves, but the law did not apply to them. Others, from the South, wished to come with their slaves, but were prevented by the Ordinance. Many petitions were sent to Congress asking the repeal of the clause prohibiting slavery, but these were given no notice by Congress. Finally, in 1803, the governor and judges adopted a Virginia law which allowed masters owning slaves to make an agreement with them for life-long slavery. This law was later strengthened by the territorial legislature.

One of these agreements, called an "indenture," follows:

May 26, 1815.

To All Whom it May Concern:

This is to certify that this day I have set free my faithful servant, *Thomas Agnew*, and from this date he shall be known as a free man. Given under my hand and seal.

Thomas Truman.

(SEAL)

Witness, *Joseph Forth.*

This is to Certify that I have this day received my emancipation papers from my former master. As I don't know any other home but the one I have always lived at, I do hereby indenture myself to my master, Thomas Truman, for thirty years from date, he agreeing to feed and clothe me during that time.

May 26, 1815.

Thomas Agnew

His X Mark

The Indians after Greenville. — For fifteen years after the Treaty of Greenville, the Indian tribes lived quietly in their country, at peace among themselves and with the white man. The older warriors remembered their crushing defeat at Fallen Timbers and wanted no more war. But new causes of discontent appeared; white settlers pushed steadily into their hunting-grounds, the prices asked for whiskey were high, while the prices offered for furs were low.

Tecumseh and the Prophet. — New leaders arose. Two Shawnee brothers became the champions of Indian rights. Tecumseh, a war chief and a bold and fearless red man, planned to unite the tribes in a confederacy and drive the



THE PROPHET

white settlers across the Ohio. His brother, known as the Prophet, a spiritual leader, had great influence among the Indians, and preached against the white men. He settled on the Wabash near the mouth of the Tippecanoe. This became known as the Prophet's Town. These leaders caused the Indians to believe that they all belonged to one family and owned the land in common.

The Council at Vincennes. — In 1809 the Indian chiefs sold another huge tract for a trifling sum. Tecumseh and his prophet brother threatened with death the chiefs who had sold the land. Governor Harrison heard of the trouble and in the summer of 1810 summoned Tecumseh to appear at Vincennes for a council. The chieftain obeyed, and with 400 armed warriors, appeared near Harrison's home at "Grouseland," where the council was held under the trees. In bold, clear terms, Tecumseh stated his plans. The land which was recently purchased must be given back to the Indians, he declared. Governor Harrison answered that the land had been bought from the Miamis, who owned it. Instantly, Tecumseh sprang to his feet and in loud tones declared this was untrue. The Council broke up and both parties prepared for war, Tecumseh going to the south to arouse the Indians in that quarter to a defense of their rights.

The story is told that, at the Council, Harrison had reserved a seat for Tecumseh. The interpreter informed the chief that

his father — meaning Governor Harrison — wished him to be seated. Tecumseh rose proudly to his full height and declared that the Sun was his father and the Earth his mother and that he would recline on her bosom. Whereupon he sat down on the ground.

The Tippecanoe Battle. — The next year, 1811, Harrison, calling the militia, marched up the Wabash. On a bluff overlooking the river above Terre Haute, he built Fort Harrison. Cautiously advancing farther into the Indians' country, he reached a place within a mile of the Prophet's Town, where his army camped on high ground. Suddenly, at daybreak on November 7, the Indians attacked the camp on every side at once. The Prophet, perched on a rock, urged his followers to the fray, but all to no purpose, for the white soldiers rallied and drove the Indians to cover. Harrison destroyed the Prophet's Town and made his way back to Vincennes. His victory was won not without cost. Some of his best captains and soldiers fell.

The War on the Frontier. — The Prophet now urged the tribes to war. The War of 1812 began and the English commanders urged the Indians to the attack. Soon the whole frontier was in arms. Fort Dearborn, where Chicago now stands, was abandoned and its garrison slaughtered. Fort Wayne was besieged, but was relieved by General Harrison. Fort Harrison was attacked and partly burned, but was gallantly defended by General Zachary Taylor.

Everywhere the Indians fell on the scattered settlements and killed and burned without pity. The story of the Massacre of Pigeon Roost, a settlement in what is now Scott County, is one of the saddest of the time. Two men out bee-hunting were killed. Then at sundown the Indians fell on the settlement and in an hour killed another man, five women, and sixteen children.

William Collings — known by the Indians as Long Knife,

because of his deadly skill — successfully defended his home. John Collings, his son, had gone for the cows. He saw an Indian stealthily creeping through the woods, and fled toward the house, pursued by the savage, who was gaining on him. He heard the report of his father's rifle and saw his deadly foe fall pierced by a ball.

Such was life on the frontier from 1811 to 1814.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Did the British have just cause for retaining the western posts after the Treaty of 1783? Name and locate these posts in the west.
2. Locate each of the Indian boundaries agreed upon from 1784 to 1795. On an outline map, trace the Greenville Treaty line and locate three forts in the vicinity. Map, p. 24.
3. What different means did Governor St. Clair use to quiet the Indians? What were the results in each case? What was the principal cause of the Indian outbreak?
4. Read Gamelin's story of his mission to the Wabash Indians. Tell the story to the class. *Readings*, pp. 69-74.
5. Read the reports of their expeditions made by Generals Scott and Wilkinson. Trace their routes on the map. *Readings*, pp. 74-82.
6. Debate: Resolved, That the Indians were justified in waging war between 1785 and 1795.
7. Find the names of Indian fighters on the map of Indiana; of Revolutionary heroes.
8. Of what importance to the settlers was the Ordinance of 1787? What "two grades" of territorial government did it provide for? Discuss the territorial problems the new government must solve.

Important Dates:

- 1784. Treaty of Fort Stanwix with the Six Nations. Ohio River agreed upon as the Indian boundary line.
- 1787. Northwest Ordinance passed by the old Congress.
- 1795. Treaty of Greenville. New Indian boundary fixed.
- 1800. Indiana Territory formed.
- 1811. Battle of Tippecanoe.

CHAPTER IV

THE MARCH OF THE PIONEERS

The Early Settlements. — As we have seen, few settlements were made in Indiana before 1800. By 1812, the tide of settlers had set in strongly. At that time they were entering lands up the Wabash in the western part of the Territory, the White River in the middle, and the Whitewater in the eastern portions. Two tiers of southern counties had been formed.

Most of the early settlers came from the Middle States, by way of Pittsburgh and the Ohio River, or across the river from Kentucky. Many, wishing to avoid slavery, came from the uplands of the Carolinas and Tennessee to the free lands of the Northwest. At Mauckport, in Harrison County, in 1808, was started the first ferry, long used by the emigrants. Another crossing was Oatman's Ferry.

Grassy Valley, in Harrison County, was settled by Squire Boone, brother of the famous Daniel, as early as 1802. In 1812, the Scribner brothers, of a well-known New York State family, founded New Albany; about the same time John Paul entered the townsite of Madison. Between these dates many sheltered valleys and wooded knolls as far north as Vallonia, in Jackson County, were occupied.

The presence of game and pure spring water often determined the location of a settlement. The knolls and highlands were preferred to the river bottoms, owing to the fever and ague in the latter places. At this time, each settlement had a fort, built of rude logs and palisades, in which the families quickly gathered in case of Indian attacks.

Settlement of the New Purchase. — In the second period, from 1816 to 1825, settlers came in a swelling tide. Their spreading over the country has been compared to the waters of a flood overflowing the land. They now occupied the upper course of the White River, and the Middle Wabash region, — the “New Purchase” as the region was called after its purchase from the Indians in 1818. At first, taught by the Indian War of 1812, the settlers moved out cautiously from the older fortified centers. Thus Vallonia, a noted frontier post, saw the founding of Salem, Paoli, Orleans, and Palestine. Soon they pushed more boldly up the creeks and valleys. Richmond, on the east, was laid out in 1816; Bloomington, to the west, in 1818; Indianapolis, in the center, in 1821. By 1824, the van of settlement reached Crawfordsville.

Routes into the wilderness followed the “traces” or blazed trails, made by the first comers, who cut a way for the wagons and blazed sharply the trees at the roadside. One of the most famous of these early wilderness roads was Whetzell’s Trace, cut by Jacob Whetzell, in 1818, from the Whitewater Country to the bluffs of White River in Johnson County. Over it hundreds of settlers poured in search of homes in the woodlands. The old Indian trail which led from the Ohio Falls through Salem, Bedford, and Bloomington to Indianapolis, the Whitewater Road, leading from Cincinnati to Indianapolis, and the Berry Trace, from Ripley County to the Capital, were other much used roads.

The Lincolns Settle in Indiana. — It was at this time, in the very year in which Indiana entered the Union, that Abraham Lincoln’s father moved his family from Kentucky to Indiana. In the fall of 1816 they settled on a farm on Pigeon Creek, in the dense forest, which his father had selected on a previous trip he had made, about fifteen miles from the Ohio, near Gentryville, in Spencer County. Here Lincoln spent his youthful days, obtaining such little schooling as

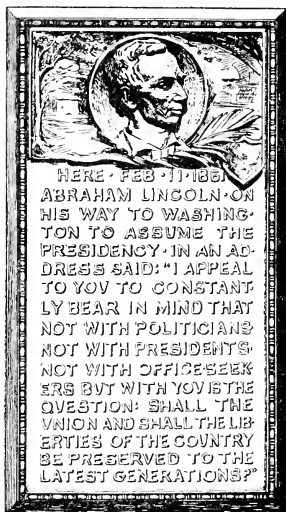
the times afforded, and reading by his father's fireside such books as came to his hands. Here his mother died and lies buried in a lonely grave, marked by a simple monument erected long afterward by the State he had adopted. During this time, he served several months as a ferryman, at Anderson Creek, where it joins the Ohio, and made that wonderful voyage on a flatboat down the river to New Orleans. In 1830, when Lincoln had reached the age of twenty-one, the family again moved to a newer country, passing to Macon County, Illinois, over a road which has recently been marked as Indiana's Lincoln Road.

Settlement of the Upper Wabash Country. — The third period, from

1825 to 1840, saw the advance of the settlers to the upper streams and plains of the Wabash. The river itself, the Wilderness Way to Crawfordsville, and finally the Michigan Road, were the main routes to the region.

"Nothing is more common," wrote George Bush, of Indianapolis, in 1826, "than to see fifteen or twenty wagons in a single day, each carrying the little belongings of the family that trudged along by its side. Indiana is now teeming with the hordes of immigration. As many as thirty wagons camp together for the night."

A new stream of settlers poured in from the north. The opening of the Erie canal, in 1825, gave a direct way to the West from New York and New England. These New England counties of the north were occupied, — the three upper tiers of the north.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL TABLET
AT INDIANAPOLIS

Indiana Becomes a State. — By 1816 there was the necessary population required by the Ordinance of 1787 to form a state government. On petition, Congress granted the people permission to frame a constitution. It generously gave them section sixteen of the public land in every congressional township for the use of public schools, as well as a whole township for a seminary of learning. In addition, it gave part of the money received from the sale of public lands for use in opening roads in the state, and four sections of land as a site for a State capital.

The Constitution of 1816. — A convention for framing a constitution was held at Corydon and in eighteen days completed its work. Some of its meetings were held beneath the old "constitutional elm," which still stands, proudly waving its branches over this cradle of Hoosier liberty. The constitution was accepted by Congress and Indiana became a state on December 9, 1816.

The constitution divided the powers between the three branches of government, making the legislative branch the most powerful. The legislature did many things now done by elected or appointed officials, such as laying out roads and streets, licensing ferries and taverns, granting divorces, and impeaching justices.

Indiana enjoys the honor of being the first State to provide in its constitution for a system of public schools, rising in a scale from the common schools to the university.

Changing the Capital. — In 1813 the seat of government was changed from Vincennes to Corydon, which was nearer the middle of the settled region. By 1820 the population had shifted northward, and the General Assembly determined to select a permanent and central location for the State capital. The high wooded plain at the junction of Fall Creek with White River was chosen, and the four sections given by Congress were surveyed. Here Alexander Ralston, who had

assisted in surveying the national capital, laid out the city, in 1821, with broad streets and avenues converging at the "Circle." To the new capital the name Indianapolis was given. Three years later, Samuel Merrill, the treasurer, in a wagon drawn by oxen, brought the papers and books of the State from Corydon to the young capital in the wilderness.

Problems of the New State.

—As in territorial times, problems of state pressed for solution.

First, there must be provided a suitable *local government*. The lawmakers devised the commissioner plan, not unlike the one still in use, to control county affairs, levy the taxes, and pay out the people's money. Orphans and poor children were bound out as apprentices. Tramps were sold to the highest bidder and put to work, for which they were paid a reasonable sum.

Then, there must be found some means of *education*. The school lands, donated by Congress, could neither be sold nor rented, there being an over-supply of cheap lands. Without money to support them, there could be no free public schools. By a law of 1816, twenty families in a township were allowed to open a school, for which they were to be taxed. At the same time the people of a county might open a seminary—the forerunner of our high schools—to prepare young people in Latin and mathematics for the State Seminary. The latter was created in 1820, and opened at Bloomington in 1824, the beginning of the Indiana University of to-day. The first schools were private, opened by teachers and held for a few



THE CAPITOL AT CORYDON

months of the year in a rude log building, often the cabin of a settler. Cases are on record of the use of a blacksmith shop, a mill, a tannery, and the old forts and courthouses for these first schools.

Another important matter was *the making of roads*. The lawmakers saw to it that there were supervisors to lay out and open up roads with power to call on all the men in the township to build them. Besides the roads of the township, State roads were opened with the money received from the sale of the land donated by Congress. The State roads were one hundred feet wide, but were for a long time little more than cleared spaces in the woods.

Finally, there was the question of *dealing with the Indians*. Except a brief "scare" in 1832, there was no Indian war after 1812. The Indians gradually yielded their claim to the soil and were moved to small areas north of the Wabash or to wider regions beyond the Mississippi.

The pioneers' memories of the early Indian wars were keen and they both feared and hated the Indians. The scare of 1832 proved the doom of the Indiana Indians. All that now remained in the State, save those who began to live a civilized life, were transported beyond the State. In this connection two stories will illustrate opposite policies respecting the Indians.

Mission of Isaac McCoy.—In 1817 Isaac McCoy, a Baptist minister, became a missionary among the Wabash Indians. In a log hut in the forest, twenty miles from the nearest white settlement, Mr. McCoy and his wife, with their seven small children, established a mission school. Here were gathered a dozen Indian children, from five to twelve years of age, who ate at the same table and slept in the same room with the missionary and his family, and were taught and cared for by Mrs. McCoy as if they were her own children. Later the McCoy's moved their mission to Fort Wayne, and when the Indians were removed beyond the Mississippi these white

friends went along. By such unselfish devotion a few white persons sought to lift the Indians of the Wabash to a higher level of living. But, unfortunately, there is another side to the picture.

The Trail of Death. — The Pottawatomies had long lived in their lands between Lake Michigan and the Wabash. They were quiet enough in times of peace, but when war was on they hastened to arm. In the days of Harrison and Tecumseh, they were given credit for many massacres and warlike attacks.

In 1836 these Indians sold their lands but were permitted to hold them for two years afterward. Squatters soon entered their country and seized their best lands, ordering the Indians away. The Indians refused to leave and began to arm. The militia were called out and marched into the Indian country. General John Tipton was ordered to remove the whole tribe from the State.

In September, 1838, the Indians' homes were destroyed and their goods loaded into wagons. A mournful procession started from Twin Lakes to Logansport. Soon old persons and children were dying from exhaustion and lack of proper food. In ten days they were out of the State, wending their way sadly to the distant Osage in Kansas. The journey is said to have cost the lives of one-fifth of the tribe.

The Lost Sister. — In this connection let us turn to the story of Frances Slocum. In 1778, during the course of the American Revolution, the British and Indians fell upon the settlement in the Wyoming Valley in eastern Pennsylvania. The home of a Quaker family named Slocum was attacked and pillaged while the father and sons were absent. The mother and some of the children escaped, but one of the girls, named Frances, five years old, was seized and carried away into lifelong captivity among the Indians. A long search was made for the lost sister by her brothers, who went as far west

as Detroit to consult Indian agents and traders, hoping thus to find some trace of her. Her mother braved the hardships of wilderness travel to attend a council at which captives were returned to their families, but Frances was not among them.

Frances was adopted into an Indian tribe and family. The tribesmen showed her great respect, being attracted, it is said, by the beauty of her reddish or auburn hair. Nearly sixty years after her capture, long after her parents were both dead, she was discovered by a fur-trader in an Indian village on the Mississinewa River in Indiana. She was then the widow of a former chieftain of the Miamis and held a position of importance, being herself the mother of brave warriors of that nation. The story of her discovery was published in an eastern newspaper and came thus to the attention of one of her brothers. Soon afterward she was visited in the Wabash country by two brothers and a sister, who journeyed the long way to find out whether she was really their long-lost sister. She showed little interest in her visitors, and was so wedded to her Indian life that she declined to visit her old home with them. She died in 1847 at the age of seventy-four.

The Pioneer People. — The pioneer stock in Indiana — the people who entered the State before 1830 — were the great-grandchildren of the English and Scotch-Irish peasantry who, a century earlier, had settled in the back country of the older colonies, from Pennsylvania to the Carolinas. They possessed the sturdy, independent character of their forefathers, which a century of struggle with the wilderness had strengthened. They were a race of keen, energetic, liberty-loving backwoodsmen. Independent in spirit, hospitable, kindly, and intelligent, they had many of the qualities needed for the making of a great people.

Unfortunately, the true character of the early pioneers has been much misunderstood by people in later times both inside and outside of the State. They have been confused,

in the minds of many, with the "poor whites," — the semi-nomadic, thriftless "descendants of the colonial bond-servants." Nothing could be further from the truth.

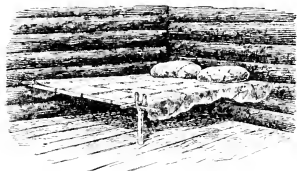
"The Indiana husbandman," says Meredith Nicholson, "even in the pioneer period, differed little or not at all from the settlers in other territorial divisions of the South and Southwest; and the early Indiana town folk were the peers of any of their fellows of the urban class in the Ohio Valley."

The Term "Hoosier." — The term "Hoosier" as applied to Indiana folk has often borne a suggestion of rudeness and illiteracy. The origin of the word is not known with certainty. It seems to have gained a state-wide usage about 1830, when John Finley, a native poet, published *The Hoosier's Nest*. Many different stories have been told to explain its origin and meaning, but none of them is quite satisfactory. Perhaps the truth is, as Mr. Dunn has pointed out, that the people of Indiana had nothing to do with its origin, and that it was first applied by outsiders. But it has been accepted, not as a term of reproach, but as a title of honor.

The Pioneer Homestead. — The homes of the pioneers were built of logs and located near a good spring. Three kinds of log houses were known. First was the *half-face camp*. It was merely a log pen with three sides, the fourth being open and facing the south. With a covering of brush and a floor of bare earth, it was a makeshift and used only the first season. Abraham Lincoln helped to build a half-face camp, in which the family lived for a year, on his father's Indiana farm.

Next came the *round log house*. Usually a single room, built of small round logs, notched into each other at the corners, covered with clapboards, it served as a home during the first years in the country. At one end, built of sticks outside, stood the "cat-and-clay" chimney for the fireplace, lined with clay, which was held in place by the fiber of cat-tails.

Later was built the *hewed log house*, often of two rooms, with a loft overhead, where the boys of the family slept. It was built of large logs, hewed roughly on two sides, the chinks or spaces between the logs being filled in with short sticks, and these plastered over with tough clay. Each room had a long low window, a large stone fire-place at the end, and a puncheon floor made of heavy boards split from logs, dressed, and pinned to the sleepers.



THE BED IN A LOG CABIN

Home Furnishings.—The furniture was rude and primitive. In one corner was the bed, made by boring holes in the walls, into which were fitted strong poles resting on forked upright pieces fastened to the puncheon floor. In the opposite corner was the table, a similar pole framework covered with clapboards. Along the opposite end ran the fireplace six to ten feet wide, around which the family sat on winter evenings. The picture may be completed by quoting a stanza from *The Hoosier's Nest*.

“One side was lined with skins of ‘varments,’
 The other spread with divers garments,
 Dried pumpkins overhead were strung
 Where venison horns in plenty hung,
 Two rifles placed above the door,
 Three dogs lay stretched upon the floor,
 In short, the domicile was rife,
 With specimens of Hoosier life.”

Clearing the Land.—The cabin built, the land must be cleared of the heavy growth of timber. First, the underbrush was cut, piled in heaps, and burned, while the larger trees were deadened by girdling. Often a season's crop was raised and gathered in the “deadening.” Next the larger trees were felled with an axe and cut into suitable lengths for rolling, or “niggered” by burning logs and brush at proper intervals on them. Finally, came the log-rolling. This occurred about the

last of April, when all the men of the neighborhood gathered with axes and hand-spikes and piled the logs in heaps ready for burning.

A Social Experiment. — About a hundred years ago an interesting experiment in community life was tried in the new commonwealth. In 1815 George Rapp, leader of a colony of German peasants located in Pennsylvania, came with his followers to the wilderness of southwestern Indiana. Here on the wooded banks of the Wabash he founded a community based upon the principles and practices of Christian brotherhood. The members numbered nearly a thousand — men, women, and children — who held all things in common. They were a colony of thrifty and industrious people. They cleared and tilled the land, “planted vineyards, manufactured woolen and cotton goods and shoes, and found a ready market for all their products.” They called their village Harmony to celebrate the spirit in which they dwelt together.

In 1825 the Rappites sold their lands to Robert Owen, a famous manufacturer and social reformer of Scotland, who established a new community which he called New Harmony. Here Owen came with a “boatload of knowledge,” bringing eminent men and women, teachers, scientists, and scholars. Among these were William Maclure, a noted geologist; Thomas Say, “the father of American zoölogy;” and Dr. Gerard Troost. Other famous scholars came later. Not the least important of the dwellers at New Harmony were the sons of the founder, Robert Dale Owen, a political leader and diplomat; David Dale Owen and Richard Owen, both geologists of note; and William Owen, editor and writer.

Schools were established and experiments in education carried on. The founder encouraged freedom in religion and in thought, speech, and action. He taught obedience to the laws of the State and nation, and kindness and courtesy to all.

But he was not as fortunate in his choice of followers as Father Rapp had been, and the experiment failed within three years, owing to differences of opinions and views of the people who lived together. Thus passed a notable experiment in social life, but not without good results in the life of the State.

“ If Robert Owen had done nothing more for the State than to bring within its borders his noble family, and the famous individuals whom we have mentioned as sojourning at times in New Harmony, he would still be the most distinguished pioneer of the commonwealth,” says Mrs. Levering.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. What were the three periods in the settlement of Indiana and what were their dates? What regions were settled in each period?

2. What factors determined the location of a new settlement? When and where was your county first settled? What were the names of the first settlers? From what State did they come? Try to find why they chose the location of their settlement.

3. Locate the New Purchase. Why was it so named? By what routes did settlers reach the New Purchase? Read a settler's account of his journey. *Readings*, pp. 161-166.

4. Enumerate the principal changes affecting Indiana between 1787 and 1816: (a) in form of government, (b) in territorial extent. Give the steps in making Indiana a State in 1816.

5. Name Indiana's three capitals and tell when each became the seat of government.

6. Tell the story of “The Trail of Death.” See Dunn, *True Indian Stories*.

7. What explanations are offered for the origin of the term “Hoosier”? Which is probably the true explanation? See Meredith Nicholson, *The Hoosiers* (Centennial Edition), ch. ii.

8. Describe each type of log house used by the early settlers. Bring some suitable sticks and build a model log house with its furnishings. Find as many pictures as you can of such pioneer homesteads. Invite an aged resident of the community to visit your class and relate his pioneer experiences.

Important Dates:

1813. Capital changed to Corydon.

1816. Indiana admitted into the Union.

1824. Capital removed to Indianapolis.

1825. Robert Owen establishes community of New Harmony.

1838. Last of the Indian tribes removed from the State.

CHAPTER V

MAKING ROADS AND CANALS

Roads in Early Indiana. — In 1816, there were few roads through the forests of southern Indiana. As the settlers pushed back from the streams, they cut rude trails to the place of settlement. Then, as we have seen, they set about opening roads between the settlements or connecting them with the towns. All of these were common dirt roads, usually not even graded.

Within ten or a dozen years, the State undertook to open ways of travel between distant parts of the country. This it did principally in two ways; first, by making State roads, and secondly, by opening the streams to navigation.

The Michigan Road. — In 1826, the Pottawatomie Indians gave the State a strip of land wide enough to build a road, adding a further gift of one section of land for every mile of the road. The proceeds of the sale of these lands were to be used in building what came to be known as the Michigan Road. This ran across the State, starting at Madison on the Ohio River and passing due north to Greensburg, thence to the State capital; from there it ran to Logansport, on the Wabash, and from that place due north again to South Bend and to the lake at Michigan City. It was graded with dirt — gravel had not then come into use — and in the soft places logs were laid crosswise and covered with sand. It was one of the most-used roads in the State. Covered with heavy black mud in winter, the other eight months of the year a continuous stream of travel passed over it — pioneers on their way to their new homes in the northwest part of the State.

The National Road. — In your study of the history of the United States, you have come across the National Road which ran through Richmond, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and the townships lying between. (Bourne and Benton, pp. 304-305). Broad and well-constructed for its day, it crossed the State in a straight line from east to west. It came to be the chief highway of travel and communication between Indiana and the Atlantic seaboard.

In 1839 Congress turned over to the State that portion of the road lying within its borders. Later the road was graveled and is still one of the best in the State.

Opening the Streams. — Indiana has by nature an excellent system of water courses. The Wabash and its tributaries radiate to every part of the State except the extreme northern and southern ends. Here other rivers and the Great Lakes afford means of traffic by water.

Unfortunately, in the early days, the streams of the State were almost impassable. They were often too shallow for river-boats, and in places their channels were clogged with sandbars or snags. The people set great store by the rivers. They hoped for swift and certain communication with the outer world by river craft. Wistfully they looked down the river for signs of approaching steamers. But usually they looked in vain.

The people set about the task of opening the streams to navigation. First, the General Assembly declared the streams navigable waterways. This prevented their obstruction with mill-dams or bridges. Then, it employed men to clear the channels of obstructions. In this way many streams were improved and their courses opened to smaller boats.

Stage-coach and Tavern. — The favorite mode of travel in early Indiana days was by stage-coach. The first stage line was started in 1820 between Louisville and Vincennes. In due time lines were in operation on all the main traveled

roads. The huge coaches drawn by four horses made good time. The distance between Indianapolis and Cincinnati was covered in twenty-four hours, if the traveler caught the river steamer at Madison. Travel by stage was often accompanied with hardship and discomfort. In dry weather, the dust and heat became unbearable; in rainy times, the mud was likely to make the roads impassable to the lumbering coach. The taverns along the highways — usually comfortable two-story log houses, with a striking sign and a blazing fireplace — were havens of rest. An old tavern sign in West Washington Street, Indianapolis, bore this couplet —



TRAVELING ON THE NATIONAL
ROAD

After an old print.

“This gate hangs high and hinders none,
Refresh and pay then travel on.

JOHN FERNLEY.”

Increasing Demand for Canals. — The State was not ten years old, when there grew up a strong demand for the building of canals. Many of the older states had successfully built these waterways. Why should not Indiana do so? In 1825 the State of New York opened the Erie Canal. Almost at once the effect was apparent in the East and the West.

The Wabash and Erie Canal. — The people of the Upper Wabash were clamorous for a canal. Steamboats could not go beyond Lafayette, or at best above Logansport. The General Assembly appealed to Congress for aid. That body responded to the appeal. In 1827 it donated to the State a

strip of land five miles in width for the building of a canal connecting Lake Erie and the Wabash River.

The State soon began the digging of the canal. Ohio was persuaded to undertake the construction of that part of the canal which lay within her borders. The Indiana portion was begun at Fort Wayne and pushed steadily down the Wabash Valley as far as Lafayette. On July 4, 1843, it was opened for traffic and travel between Lafayette and Toledo.

Uses of the Canal. — For a time the Wabash and Erie Canal was quite useful. All kinds of boats — passenger as well as freight — were drawn over its waters. Docks and warehouses sprang up along its course. It was a real highway to and from Indiana.

Then came a change. The railway became its rival. Swifter, surer, going to parts inaccessible by canals, the railroad soon caused its decline.

The "System" of Canals and Roads. — The demand for canals and roads to be built in other parts of the State now grew stronger. The people of the Whitewater Valley asked for a canal. This was one of the richest and most thickly settled parts of the state. The people in Southern Indiana were clamoring for a turnpike. Here was a chance for "log-rolling."

The Mammoth Bill of 1836. — And this was what followed. In 1836, the Mammoth Bill passed the General Assembly and gave every part of the state its road or canal. This law set apart a fabulous sum—one-sixth of the wealth of the entire state—for the projected works. Some of them were as follows:

1. The Central Canal, from the Wabash to Indianapolis, and from there down White River to its forks and on to Evansville. Its estimated cost was \$3,500,000.

2. The Whitewater Canal, from near Cambridge City down the valley to Cincinnati, and a branch to the Central Canal. It was to cost \$1,400,000.

3. The Wabash and Erie Canal to be extended to Terre

Haute, thence to the Central. For this extension \$1,300,000 was set apart.

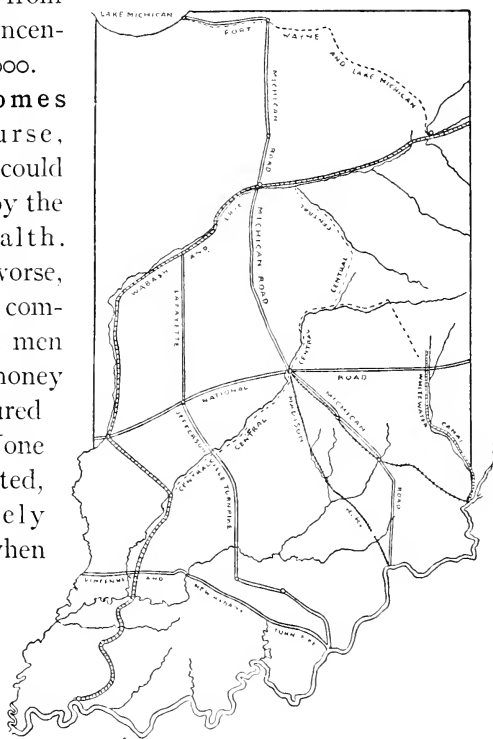
4. A railroad from Madison, through Columbus and Indianapolis, to Lafayette. Its estimated cost was \$1,300,000.

5. A turnpike from New Albany to Vincennes, to cost \$1,150,000.

The State Becomes Bankrupt.—Of course, this gigantic project could not be carried out by the young commonwealth. To make matters worse, gross frauds were committed by dishonest men who handled the money which the State poured into these works. None of them was completed, many were scarcely more than begun, when the state found itself unable to go on. It was without funds, without money even to pay interest — a bankrupt from its am-

bitious plans and the dishonesty of its public officials. In 1847 the State turned over the Wabash and Erie Canal to its creditors, paying the interest and a portion of the debt. Thus closed an unhappy chapter in the history of the State.

Growth of Railroads. — This was the era of railroad building in Indiana. By 1830 the idea of railroads instead of



PROJECTED INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

canals was beginning to take fast hold of the people of the State. In 1832 eight railroads were chartered by the legislature. On July 4, 1834, the first railroad in Indiana — indeed, the first in the old Northwest — was opened for service near Shelbyville. You may be sure it was only a small beginning. It was a horse-power wooden tramway one and a quarter miles long. "One horse drew forty or fifty persons at the rate of nineteen miles per hour," reads the report of the first trial of the road.

The first important railroad was begun at Madison in 1836 and was slowly built toward Indianapolis, which it reached in 1847. The success of this railroad greatly stimulated the building of others in the State. By 1853 a score of railroads traversed the State in all directions. In the ten years between 1850 and 1860 more miles of railroad were built in Indiana than during any like period in the history of the State.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. How were the first roads made? What determined their routes? What was a "trace"? a "trail"? How were the roads connecting the settlements built? How were streams opened to navigation?
2. Tell the story of (a) the first steamboat on White River, (b) a steamboat trip up the Wabash. *Readings*, 237-242. Are steamboats used on these rivers to-day? Why?
3. Tell about the hardships of travel in early days in Indiana. Describe an old-time western tavern. Name some of the early stage lines in the State. *Readings*, 223-227.
4. Explain how a flatboat was made. For what was it used? Draw a sketch of a flatboat on its way "down the river." *Readings*, 231-234.
5. On an outline map of the State, trace the "system" of canals and roads planned in 1836. Which of these were actually built? What uses were made of the Wabash and Erie Canal? For what is it used to-day? Why did canals go out of use so early?
6. Trace the growth of railroads in Indiana before the Civil War. What noted occurrences in the history of the State have taken place on July 4? Why was this date usually chosen for "openings"?

CHAPTER VI

INDIANA IN THE MIDDLE PERIOD

The Middle Period. — The period from about 1840 to 1870 may be called the Middle Period in Indiana history. It is the time in which the social and political life of the people took on definite and lasting form. By 1840 the State was rapidly leaving behind the rude conditions of frontier life. Its people had planted the seeds of human institutions and were now to see them spring into root and herb of settled life. The time of rapid settlement was past. The State was occupied from border to border. The Indian claims to the land were extinguished and the tribes themselves safe beyond the Father of Waters.

Social Life of the Times. — The first severe struggle with the wilderness was ended. People in country and town were beginning to enjoy the fruits of their earlier hardships and toil. To the second generation of Hoosiers life was far pleasanter and more comfortable than it was to the first. The children of the pioneer stock, now grown to be men and women, found themselves, in the forties and fifties, possessors of a rich inheritance won by their fathers from forest and swamp.

Not that all achievement was ended. Indeed, the best of the work was yet to be done, — only the foundation for the commonwealth was as yet laid. The State was still in its youth. The work of mature years lay all ahead.

Better homes were now appearing. The rude log house was giving way to the frame dwelling or mansion of brick. Here and there, in the larger towns, colonial mansions of spacious design were built. For these, fine old mahogany furniture

was imported from the East. The dress of men and women took on more attractive pattern. Social gatherings were marked by elegance and refined manners.

Political Life. — Politics became more interesting to the people. Perhaps they had more leisure for political discussion. The newspaper, too, became a political force. The most

typical instance of political activity is seen in the campaign of 1840.



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Harrison Campaign. —

This was the most exciting and picturesque political campaign ever waged in the history of the State. General William Henry Harrison, the favorite hero of Indiana folk, was again the Whig candidate for the presidency. For four years his friends had kept him ceaselessly before the people.

Every means was used to arouse the people's enthusiasm. Barbecues, mass meetings, processions were held. Then came the great celebration at Battle Ground, the scene of General Harrison's victory more than a quarter of a century before. Wagons were in line, each bearing a log cabin with a coon clinging to the roof and men standing in the doorway dipping hard cider from a huge barrel. Other wagons held great canoes filled with young ladies dressed in white. Whig leaders came to this political festival from every part of the Union. It is needless to add that the Whig candidate was elected, but he died in office within a month.

Indiana in the Mexican War. — Another manifestation of political sentiment was shown in the war with Mexico. Indiana was settled chiefly by people of southern birth. When the crisis with Mexico came, her people fell in line with the

sentiment of the South, which favored the war, as against the East, which opposed it. Volunteers were asked for in the Hoosier land. Bells were sounded in every village, mass meetings held, and enlistment began. Five regiments were enrolled and the volunteers taken away to learn their first lessons in the art of war, which later served them well in the great civil strife.

The New Constitution. — The first constitution was well suited to the conditions of its time. But those conditions had changed. Its chief defect was that it gave too much power to the legislature. Private and special laws became the chief political evil. A convention, in 1851, framed a new constitution. Some of the best men of the State were its members, such as Robert Dale Owen, Thomas A. Hendricks, and John I. Morrison. The constitution, still in use after more than sixty years, was governed by the principles of Andrew Jackson. It sought to bring the government nearer to the people. State officers, formerly chosen by the General Assembly, were now made elective.

The Public School System. — About this time Indiana saw the beginning of the system of free public schools. The census of 1840 showed that Indiana was the sixteenth state in the scale of illiteracy, — “below every northern state and three southern states.” Though provided for in the first constitution, there had been no free schools; nor was the desire for them apparently strong. The way was prepared by a series of remarkable addresses. Beginning in 1846, every year until 1852 the legislature was addressed at its opening by a paper entitled “Read, Circulate, and Discuss” and was signed by “One of the People.” This person was Caleb Mills, then a professor in Wabash College. The author explained the causes and the meaning of the prevailing illiteracy. Only one child in three attended school. The matter was referred to the people. By a majority, they voted for free schools, and

in 1852 a law was passed requiring three months of free schools in every district of the State.

End of the Indenture System. — In the territorial period by means of an agreement, or indenture, made with his slaves, a master could bring them into the territory to live and continue to hold them there (p. 31). The constitution of 1816 put an end to this practice by declaring that, thereafter, such indentures would have no legal force in the state. It also prohibited slavery by adopting the sixth article of the Ordinance of 1787.

Slavery Declared Illegal. — In the famous "Polly Case," the highest court of the state ruled that slavery was contrary to the constitution and that persons held as slaves were free. This put an end to slavery in Indiana, so far as laws and courts were concerned, although, as a matter of fact, slaves were held long afterward. In 1830, thirty-two slaves were owned in Vincennes alone. In 1840, the census takers recorded three slaves in the State. This is the last official record of slaveholding in Indiana.

Free Negroes in Indiana. — In many parts of the South, negroes were often given their freedom. Many of these came to the free soil of Indiana to live. Some served as hired laborers; others lived on small farms which they tilled. Many lived sober, industrious lives and were respected members of the community. A man, known by his neighbors as "Uncle Tom," and closely resembling the famous character in Mrs. Stowe's book, lived in Indianapolis and was known by that author. In 1850, more than eleven thousand free negroes were living in Indiana, half of whom were born there.

Kidnapping Free Negroes. — Often unprincipled men profited by kidnapping negroes who were living peaceably and sold them back into slavery. This aroused the indignation of many people who believed that the whole system of slavery was wrong. Societies were formed to prevent the practice of

kidnapping. Soon these societies were busy helping southern slaves to escape to freedom.

The "Underground" in Indiana. — While some of the people of Indiana were neutral or indifferent toward slavery, many persons strongly opposed it. After 1850, when Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, "branches" and "stations" of the Underground Railroad became numerous in Indiana. The home of Levi Coffin, at Newport, Wayne County, was one of the most famous centers. Coffin himself was known as the "President of the Underground Railroad."

"Solitary and in groups," says Mrs. Levering, "the negroes came trembling across the Ohio in the dead of night, shoeless and ill-clad, to the homes of free negroes or their white deliverers. The women maintained sewing-circles to prepare clothing for these fugitives, and the men carried them forward in wagons to the next resident who was known as a member of the Underground Railway. In the course of a year, thousands of blacks made this effort to escape and were helped along the Indiana routes toward freedom."

Negroes Given Full Rights. — Although the constitution of 1851 forbade the negro the right of suffrage, or even thereafter to settle in the State, yet, after the beginning of the Civil War, these provisions became of no effect. They were later repealed by amendment to harmonize with the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The negro now enjoys all the rights of citizens in the State.

Early Indecision in the Civil War. — Indiana's position before the war began was peculiar. Very many of her people were of Southern birth or descent. Naturally, the people of Southern origin felt a keen sympathy with the South. They were inclined to accept the Southern view of slavery and the rights of the States. After the election of Abraham Lincoln, in 1860, the people and their leaders were

undecided what course to pursue. But this indecision was not to last.

Effect of Sumter's Fall. — On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon and soon afterward fell. Instantly, a change came over the people. All indecision was gone. The Union must be preserved. We shall let a woman who was living describe the effect of the news: "No man living within the limits of America will ever forget that dispatch. The old earth seemed to reel under a blow and no longer to afford a sure foothold. Through the long Saturday, business was at a stand. That night from the banks of the Ohio to the sand-hills of Lake Michigan, from the Quaker towns on the eastern border to the prairie farms on the western line, the streets of Indiana towns were black with breathless people." A new meaning seemed to stream from the flag. Was it to be the emblem of a divided country?

The Call for Volunteers. — On the next day, President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers. Indiana's share was six thousand. Fifteen thousand men answered the call. "The clerk dropped his pen, the woodsman his axe, the machinist his tools, and, more than all in numbers, the farmers left their plows in the furrows and came to their country's call."

Indiana's War Governor. — Governor Oliver P. Morton proved to be a "war governor" in very fact. He guided the destiny of the commonwealth through the long conflict with high courage and great wisdom. From the very beginning, his energy knew no bounds. He counseled with President Lincoln, offered men, money — anything, in fact — to win the war and save the Union. He raised regiments; furnished them with clothing, arms, and supplies; and rushed them to the front. Indiana's splendid showing in the war is due in large measure to the foresight and energy of this man.

On Southern Battlefields. — Space does not admit a full

history of Indiana's part in the war. Only the main facts can here be noted. Her men fought in every important battle from Bull Run to Appomattox. It is said that the first and the last man to yield their lives on the battlefield were Indiana soldiers. Her dead were left in seventeen states and territories. Nearly three-fourths of her men capable of bearing arms served in the armies of the Union. Of these, about one in seven did not return; many thousands returned scarred and maimed for the remainder of their lives.

Morgan's Raid. — One exploit deserves especial notice. In 1863, John Morgan, a Confederate general, hearing that many people in southern Indiana



STATUE OF OLIVER P. MORTON

were tired of the war and in full sympathy with the South, crossed the Ohio, and with about 2500 cavalry passed rapidly through the southern portion of the State, hoping, no doubt, to receive help from the discontented. Instead, from every part of the State came an armed volunteer host to expel the bold raider or capture his force. Morgan saw that he had made a mistake and tried hard to escape beyond the Ohio, but he and his men were captured. Thus ended the only real invasion of Indiana soil by a Southern army.

Woman's Part in the War. — Not all of the effort and achievement may be credited to the men at the battle-front. The women who remained at home and labored for the comfort of the soldiers contributed an important part to their

success. In 1861 Governor Morton issued an appeal to the women of the State, asking for blankets, knit gloves, socks, and hospital supplies. The response was so liberal that, before the winter was half gone, all needs were supplied. And this service was repeated many times. The heroic sacrifice of mothers who saw their sons march away to join the army, and of gently reared women who went as hospital nurses, must be remembered along with the heroism of the men on the fighting line.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. What was the Middle Period in Indiana history? What changes took place in the social and political life of the times? What was a barbecue? Ask your teacher to read to the class the account of the barbecue in Eggleston's *Rory*, ch. 1.

2. Tell how the public school system was established in Indiana. Relate the story of Caleb Mills and his "Messages." See Thompson, *Stories of Indiana*, pp. 235-238.

3. How long did slaves continue to be held in Indiana? How was slavery finally brought to an end? How did the "indenture" plan seek to get around the clause in the Northwest Ordinance forbidding slavery? Locate the main lines and stations of the Underground in Indiana.

4. Tell the story of the rescue of a fugitive slave on Indiana soil. See *Readings*, ch. xxvi.

5. What part did Governor Morton take in the conduct of the Civil War? What part did Indiana soldiers take in the war?

6. Tell the story of Morgan's Raid. Trace his route across Indiana.

Important Dates:

1840. The Harrison and Tyler campaign.

1851. The second Constitution framed and adopted.

1861. The Civil War begins. Governor Morton sends soldiers.

CHAPTER VII

THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSFORMED

Social and Industrial Changes. — Since 1870 a new Indiana has risen. The commonwealth has passed from youth to maturity. As it draws near the century mark, it shows the qualities of full grown life. The institutions which were marked out in the previous period have developed by use and grown more perfect by service. They have passed the age of experiment and trial and now belong to the period of settled and secure life.

In the New Age the population of the State has doubled. The growth in wealth, industry, and material comfort has been even more marked than the growth in numbers. In this time all the important changes which make life in the dawn of the twentieth century so rich and full of meaning have come to the people of Indiana. Especially noteworthy are those inventions which have drawn the people into close relations, and made every corner of the State vibrate with common impulses. Of these we may mention the telephone, the electric trolley, the motor car, and wireless telegraphy.

“This age of electricity, the growth of our cities, the trolley car and the traction lines, the telephone and the automobile, — these would have been as startling anticipations to the mind and eye of Joseph A. Wright or Robert Dale Owen as a single day’s railway journey from Chicago to Cincinnati to the men of 1816,” writes Professor Woodburn. “In material wealth, in industry, in comforts and modes of living, in travel, in conveniences of life, whether

in city or country, in methods of business, in education, literature, or art,—in everything that goes to make up civilized life, the progress of the last half century has been much more remarkable than that of the half century before.”

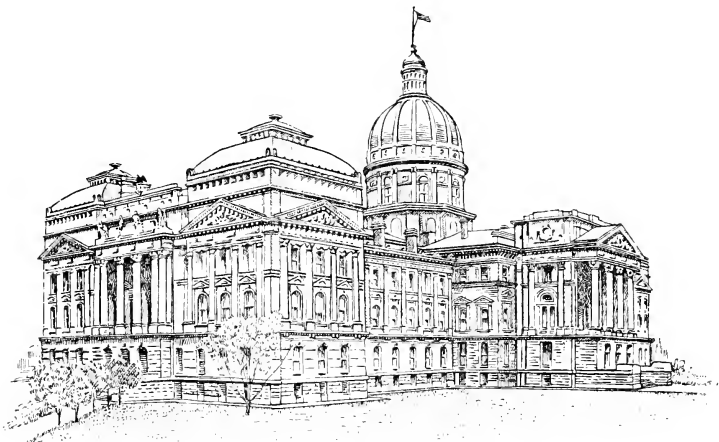
A New Industrial Age.—In the New Age, Indiana has been transformed from a purely agricultural State into one equally engaged in agriculture and manufacturing. As late as 1890 the State was chiefly agricultural. Its wealth was found in its farms, its timbered areas, its live stock, and its staple crops. In 1910 products of the factories and mills were greater in value than the products of the farms. We are fast becoming an industrial people. The census of 1910 showed less acreage in farm lands in the State than in 1900. Many rural communities actually decreased in population in the last decade.

In 1910, Indiana ranked ninth among the States in the Union in the value of its manufactures. Its growth in this respect has been due to a number of causes: first, the abundant natural resources, especially timber, farm products, and fuels; second, the development of transportation systems, connecting all parts of the State with one another and with distant markets; and third, the extension of the use of machinery. The results upon the people have been far-reaching. Among these are the new problems which have thrust themselves into the foreground, such as the question of child labor, of shorter hours for workingmen, the minimum wage, employers' liability, and arbitration of labor disputes. In the solution of these questions we have made a fair beginning. Much remains to be done.

Politics in The New Age.—Since the close of the Civil War, Indiana has played a striking part in the political history of the nation. The State has long been what is called a *pivotal* State. That is, its vote in national elections has been

close, turning now to one party, now to another. For a quarter of a century, the electoral vote of Indiana, combined with that of New York, New Jersey, and the Southern States, would have been decisive in the election of the President.

In this period Indiana has furnished four Vice-Presidents and a President of the United States. Schuyler Colfax was



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elected Vice-President in 1868 on the ticket with Grant. In 1884, Thomas A. Hendricks was elected Vice-President on the Democratic ticket. In 1888, Benjamin Harrison was elected President on the Republican ticket. In 1904, Charles Warren Fairbanks was elected Vice-President on the Republican ticket; and in 1912, Thomas R. Marshall was elected Vice-President on the Democratic ticket.

Learning and Letters in Indiana. — Though learning was slow to bud and blossom in the Hoosier commonwealth, yet the native genius early found expression in literary work. Says Maurice Thompson, "Massachusetts was within three years of two centuries old when Bryant wrote 'Thanatopsis.'"

Indiana was a little more than eighty years old when James Whitcomb Riley wrote 'Old Glory' and scarcely seventy when Will H. Thompson gave to the world his 'High Tide at Gettysburg.' We Hoosiers have developed more rapidly than the Yankees. *Ben Hur* came out of Indiana less than a century after Clark captured Vincennes in the howling wilderness."

A collection of western poetical writings, published in 1860, contained the work of twenty-three poets native to the soil of Indiana. A collection entitled *Poets and Poetry of Indiana*, published in 1900, includes the best work of one hundred and forty-six Indiana poets.

Sarah T. Bolton. — One who sang her sweet strains in the primeval forests of early days was Sarah T. Bolton. As a writer of poetry she was famous in her day and her works were widely read. Born in Kentucky, in 1815, when yet a child she came with her parents to the beautiful city of Madison. Here she received such education as the early schools afforded and while still a young girl she began to write poetry for the local papers. Her poems attracted the attention of Nathaniel Bolton, then the editor of the first newspaper founded in Indianapolis. He sought out the young poetess and won her for his wife. Together they set up a plain and humble home near the new wilderness capital.

Here, amid toil and privation, she wrote the poems which gave her fame. The story is told that while her husband was custodian of the State House, the task fell to her to sew the carpets of the legislative chambers. While at this task she wrote the poem entitled "Paddle Your Own Canoe." That she loved the State of her adoption is shown by the poem which she named "Indiana." The first stanza is as follows:

"Though many laud Italia's clime,
And call Helvetia's land sublime,
Tell Gallia's praise in prose and rhyme,
And worship old Hispania;

The winds of Heaven never fanned,
The circling sunlight never spanned
The borders of a better land
Than our own Indiana."

"The First of the Hoosiers." — But in the period we are studying the first prose writer to attract attention beyond the borders of the State was Edward Eggleston. He it was who first wrote of typical Hoosier scenes and characters. For this reason his brother, George Cary Eggleston, also a writer of note, has called him "the first of the Hoosiers." In the early seventies he began to write his stories of the Hoosiers of southern Indiana as he had known them "back in the fifties." His *Hoosier Schoolmaster* first brought him fame and has become a classic far beyond the borders of the society which it portrays. Later his *Roxy* and *The Circuit Rider* further illustrated the aspects of the crude and simple life of early Indiana.

Among the influences which shaped his career was the incomparable scenery along the Ohio with which he was familiar. With his brother George he would take long walks along the river and through the woods. "Nothing could be finer than our all-day excursions to the woods in search of hickory-nuts, wild grapes, blackberries, pawpaws, or of nothing at all but the sheer pleasure of wandering in one of the noblest forests it ever fell to a boy's lot to have for a playground," he afterwards wrote. "Then, too, when we had some business five or twenty miles away, we scorned to take the steamboat, but just set out afoot along the river bank, getting no end of pleasure out of the walk, and out of that sense of power which unusual fatigue, cheerfully borne, always gives." He knew well the society he wrote about, although he was not a part of it.

Lew Wallace and "Ben Hur." — Another writer whose works are widely read is General Lew Wallace. Born and

reared in Indiana, he has written of times and places remote from his own. His first book of importance, *The Fair God*, deals with the ancient Aztec civilization and is a story of charm and power. His greatest work is *Ben Hur*. The author spent several years gathering materials for this "Tale of the Christ." It is a wonderfully dramatic story of the Roman Empire in its best days, and sets out the marvelous influence of the Christ upon the times in which he lived. This book has been translated into all European languages and even into Arabic and Japanese. While United States minister to Turkey, General Wallace gathered materials for a new story of the East, *The Prince of India*. Lew Wallace spent most of the active years of his life in Crawfordsville, which, because of the number of its literary men and women who lived there, has been called the "Athens of Indiana."

Two Gifted Brothers. — Of great value is the work of Maurice Thompson and his brother, Will H. Thompson. The former was born near Brookville, Indiana, in 1844. His father was a Baptist minister and moved several times, finally settling in Georgia. Here the younger brother was born and both grew to manhood. At the beginning of the Civil War both entered the Confederate army and served throughout the war. At its close, they settled at Crawfordsville and entered upon the practice of law. Maurice Thompson wrote many stories, mostly of Southern life. His best known and one of his last books is *Alice of Old Vincennes*, a captivating tale of Indiana history in the days of Clark. His poems are noted for their beauty, the *Poems of Fair Weather* being his best. Will H. Thompson wrote *High Tide at Gettysburg*, one of the finest poems in the language.

The Hoosier Poet. — Best beloved of all Indiana writers is James Whitcomb Riley. Born in Greenfield in 1853, he grew up amidst the country life that he depicts so well.

He became the interpreter of Hoosier character through the use of the characteristic dialect of these simple country folk. Yet much of Mr. Riley's best work is not in dialect but in pure English. He has been called the poet of childhood. He has always been a lover of children and is in turn deeply loved by them. In October, 1913, he was greeted by thousands of school children of Indianapolis, who paraded past his home in beautiful Lockerbie Street. Mr. Riley has been honored beyond the bounds of his native State. In 1902, Yale University conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts, and in 1904, the University of Pennsylvania made him a Doctor of Letters.

Other Indiana Writers. — Other writers whose names we may barely more than mention are Meredith Nicholson, whose book of essays on *The Hoosiers* is the best interpretation of Hoosier life as a whole; Booth Tarkington, who has portrayed a new type of Hoosier in *A Gentleman from Indiana*; George Ade, whose inimitable fables are read the world over; and Gene Stratton Porter, who has so successfully interpreted the life of bird, flower, and moth of the Limberlost Swamp.

Beginnings of Free Public Schools. — As we have seen, the earlier dreams of free schools in Indiana were not realized until after the Constitution of 1851 went into effect. That constitution made provision for a "general and uniform system of common schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge and equally open to all." In 1852, a law gave shape to the public school system which still exists. This law provided for a property tax for the support of schools, and consolidated all school funds into one under the management of the State. It made the civil township the unit for school purposes, giving the trustee thereof charge of school affairs in the township. It also established the office of State Superintendent and a State Board of Education. In 1873, the office of county

superintendent of schools was created for general supervision of the schools of the county.

Better Rural Schools. — One of the most hopeful movements for better schools in Indiana has been that to improve the country schools. First, is the move *to consolidate the schools into a central graded school* in every township. This movement has made great advance in some parts of the State. In 1899 the General Assembly gave township trustees the power to transport pupils at public expense from the weaker schools to a stronger central school. In 1907, it required trustees to discontinue weak schools which had an average attendance of twelve pupils or less, and required them to transport the pupils of such abandoned schools to a central school. As a result, scores of country crossroads schoolhouses have been abandoned and the pupils transferred to graded schools, affording superior opportunities for instruction in music, drawing, and manual and household arts.

Secondly, there is now *provision for instruction in agriculture*. It is the purpose to direct the boys and girls to an intelligent study of agriculture, which it is hoped will inspire in them an honest love for labor and prove to them that brains are essential to successful farming. Practical work in the consolidated schools of Randolph, Johnson, Henry, and other counties awakens interest in the study of soils, seeds, injurious insects, and the processes of cultivation. In some cases an orchard affords practical lessons in fruit raising; a tiny plantation of nut trees an experiment in forestry; and the ornamental grounds an example of landscape gardening.

Vocational Education. — In 1913, a law of far-reaching importance in the educational history of the State was enacted. It provided for the establishment and support by taxation of departments or schools for teaching subjects in direct preparation for the work which young people are expected to do for a living. Instruction in agriculture, domestic

science, manual and household arts is to be given in these schools. Part-time and evening schools or classes may be conducted for the benefit of the persons above school age who are engaged in occupations. The way is now open for more practical instruction in preparation for the work of life.

The Indiana Centennial. — Indiana is passing the century mark as a member of the sisterhood of states. We have followed the story of her growth from an infant commonwealth to mature life. Under the direction of a Centennial Commission, composed of leading men and women of the State, plans are under way to celebrate the event by appropriate exercises in every county. The plans include the publication and preservation of the records of the State's history. We may all share in the pride in "this Indiana land of ours, not to fight for, except in rarest and direst need, but to build for and to perpetuate."

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Name the three chief periods in the history of the State since 1816. Learn the including dates of each period
2. In which period did the population of the State increase most rapidly? In which was railroad building most marked? What are the reasons in each case?
3. Tell what part Indiana has played in the politics of the nation since the Civil War.
4. Make a list of Indiana authors named in the text. Add other names to the list.
5. Read Meredith Nicholson's characterization of the Hoosier Poet in *The Hoosiers*. Why is Mr. Riley so popular?
6. Tell how each important invention has broadened the outlook of the people of Indiana during the past thirty years.
7. How has public education responded to the changing needs of the time?
8. What is Indiana's "natal day"?

APPENDIX

GROWTH OF RAILROADS IN INDIANA

<i>Date</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1840		1880	4,321
1845	39	1890	5,971
1850	228	1900	6,471
1860	2,163	1910	7,420
1870	3,177	1914	8,449

From *Report*, Public Service Commission of Indiana, 1916.

GROWTH OF POPULATION BY DECADES

	<i>Population of Indiana</i>	<i>Per cent Increase for Indiana</i>	<i>Per cent Increase for U. S.</i>
1800.....	4,875		
1810.....	24,520	334.7	36.4
1820.....	147,178	500.2	33.1
1830.....	343,031	133.0	33.5
1840.....	685,866	99.9	32.7
1850.....	988,416	44.1	35.9
1860.....	1,350,428	36.6	35.6
1870.....	1,680,637	24.5	22.6
1880.....	1,978,301	17.7	30.1
1890.....	2,192,404	10.8	25.5
1900.....	2,516,462	14.8	20.7
1910.....	2,700,876	7.3	21.0



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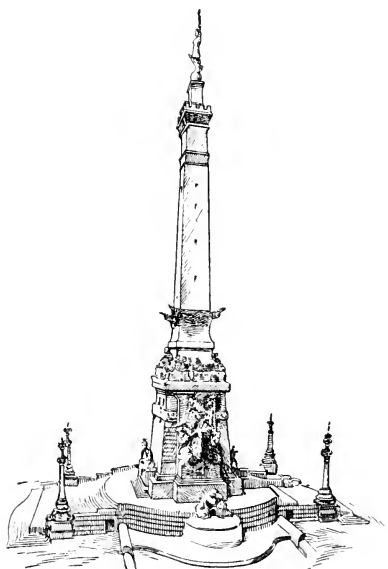
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